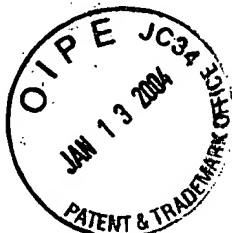


Image



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\*Admitted only in Maryland  
\*Admitted only in Virginia  
\*Practice limited to  
Federal Agencies

January 13, 2004

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**Art Unit 2851**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Application No. 09/981,992; Filed: October 19, 2001  
For: **Wafer Handling System for Use in Lithography Patterning**  
Inventors: del Puerto *et al.*  
Our Ref: 1857.0290000

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

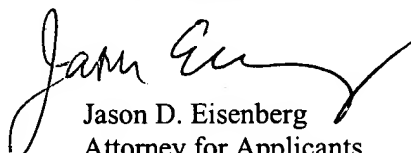
1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

  
Jason D. Eisenberg  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 43,447

JDE/crf  
Enclosures

#217948.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

del Puerto et al.

Appl. No.: 09/981,992

Filed: October 19, 2001

For: **Wafer Handling System for Use  
in Lithography Patterning**

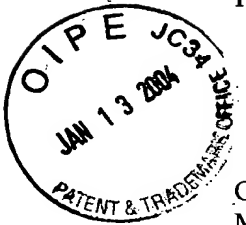
Confirmation No.: 7081

Art Unit: 2851

Examiner: Rodney Fuller

Atty. Docket: 1857.0290000

**Amendment And Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**



Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated **November 17, 2003**, Applicant submits the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
  - in ascending order;
  - with status identifiers; and
  - with markings in the currently amended claims;
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.